

Volunteers-in-Parks Newsletter

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National Historical Park



Upcoming Events

May 1, 2017

May 6 (9:30am-12:30pm): Volunteers Needed for Drexel Women's History Scavenger Hunt

3-5 volunteers needed at several stations located between the Chapel and Varnum's Picnic Area to answer questions from youth doing the scavenger hunt. Information sheets will be provided; VIPs can wear VIP uniform or living history attire. Email Cristina ASAP!

May 6 (11am-3pm): Turning the Tides of War: French Alliance Day!

4 volunteers needed to help with the grand opening of Fort John Moore from 11:30am-1:30pm. Free refreshments will be served. Email Cristina ASAP if you are interested.

May 7 (2pm): "The History of Dowlin Forge: a Nineteenth-Century Industrial Community in Uwchlan" at Hopewell
Lecture series at Hopewell Furnace, hosted by the Friends of Hopewell Furnace. Free to attend.

May 9 (7:30-9:30am): Guided Bird Walk

Join Mary Ellen and Tom Heisey, avid local birders. Walk is intended for birders of all levels—beginners welcome and encouraged. Programs meet at Artillery Park and covers 1.5 miles of walking.

May 13 (11am-3pm): Final Valley Forge Park Alliance Lecture Series "George & Martha Washington in Perfect Felicity"

VFPA members attend for free but must register in advance. Non-members can purchase tickets for \$20:

http://vfparkalliance.org/speaker-tix.shtml?utm_source=enews+2017-04-24&utm_campaign=2015-08-04&utm_medium=email.

May 13 (11am-3pm): Mom's Army

Staff and volunteers will recognize the women at the Valley Forge winter encampment.

May 13 (11am): Light the Pile at Hopewell Furnace

Initiating the annual May charcoal demonstration at Hopewell Furnace. Free to attend.

May 14 (12pm-4pm): Sheep Shearing Demonstration at Hopewell Furnace

Free to attend. Come watch the annual sheep shearing of the furnace's flock.

June 6 (11:30am-1:00pm): Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at Philander Chase Knox Estate

You are invited to join us for this annual tradition at a new and memorable venue where we will celebrate your service. The Estate once served as the summer home of Philander Chase Knox, former U.S. Attorney General, U.S. Secretary of State and U.S. Senator. Please RSVP by Monday, May 15 in order for us to adequately plan for the event: <https://goo.gl/forms/FmPFsXEf5WS14wyA3>

June 17 (10am-11:30am): Annual March Out of the Continental Army Commemoration

The March begins at 10:00am at Artillery Park and ends approximately 11:30am at Varnum's Picnic Area.

May 23 (7:30-9:30am): Guided Bird Walk

Join Mary Ellen and Tom Heisey, avid local birders. Walk is intended for birders of all levels—beginners welcome and encouraged. Programs meet at Artillery Park and covers 1.5 miles of walking.

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Volunteer & Park Updates

The Volunteer Handbooks, past copies of the newsletter, and other volunteer resources are now available on the Valley Forge website: <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/vip-resources.htm>. From the Valley Forge website go to “Get Involved” at the top of the page, go to “Volunteer,” then “VIP Resources” page.

Muhlenberg Living History Days are coming up! Check out this volunteer-run program on May 6, May 20, June 10, June 24, July 15, July 29, August 19, September 2, and September 23.

If a visitor wants to make a monetary donation to the park, you cannot accept it. Please direct them to one of the donation boxes, or suggest they make a donation to the [Valley Forge Park Alliance](#). By making a donation to the Alliance, a donor can be assured that the funds will be spent on Valley Forge.

Remember, if a visitor approaches you with an *archaeological find*, all volunteers should state that you cannot accept the item directly. Ask the visitor to please remain there with the item while you contact the appropriate staff person to review the item. Then, discreetly call the Montgomery County non-emergency number (610-275-1222) and ask for a Valley Forge Law Enforcement Ranger to stop by to look at the archaeological find. The LE Ranger will interview the visitor about the item, and then will probably take the item for safe keeping until it can be turned over to the curatorial division.

Ongoing variety of volunteer opportunities at Hopewell Furnace include Historical Database Entry, Historic Account Book Indexer, Visitor Center, and many more. Visit <http://npgallery.nps.gov/hofu/> or www.volunteer.gov (search “Hopewell”).

Valley Forge staff will conduct outreach at [Phoenixville First Fridays](#) (6-10pm on May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug 4, Sept 1, Oct 6). Interested Volunteers should contact Ranger Vanessa Latham (vanessa_latham@nps.gov). Volunteers should wear their uniform and name bar, and be prepared to commit to the entire four hours.

Other interesting information

Did you know that Magistrate Court is held in the Valley Forge meeting room every month (9am-12pm). The public is welcome to sit in. Anyone going to attend will have to go through security. Dates are currently set for May 25, June 29, July 27, September 21, October 19, November 22, and December 21.

2017 Fee Free days for public lands: June 10 for National Get Outdoors Day (national forests will waive entrance fees); August 25 for the National Park Service Birthday; September 30 for National Public Lands Day (National parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests and public lands managed by Bureau of Land Management will waive their entrance fees); October 8 for First Sunday of National Wildlife Refuge Week (all national wildlife refuges will waive their entrance fees); November 11-12 for Veterans Day Weekend.

Are you over the age of 62 and want a lifetime pass to all national parks? Get yours ASAP before they raise the cost to \$80. Right now you can order one online for \$20, or buy one for \$10 at a national park with a fee (not Valley Forge). Get the details here: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm>.

An interesting read on millennials and national parks: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2016/10/unplugging-the-selfie-generation-national-parks/>.

Safety Reminders

1. Please review the Valley Forge Superintendent’s Compendium to learn the park’s rules and regulations: <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/learn/management/upload/2015-VAFO-Compendium.pdf>.
2. Remember to program the Montgomery County Non-Emergency Line (610-275-1222) into your cell phone. For immediate emergencies (safety or medical) ALWAYS call 911. For all other circumstances call the Non-Emergency number.
3. Call the Valley Forge Snow Line if you are not sure if the park has a delayed opening or will be closed: 610-783-1095.

Recent Events



Thanks to all the volunteers who volunteered at the Revolutionary Run this past weekend.
The event was incredibly successful and saw record numbers.

Cristina says goodbye to Valley Forge

Valley Forge VIPs:

As many of you have heard, my last day at Valley Forge is Friday, May 12. I will be moving to Lakewood, Colorado for a short summer internship at the NPS Intermountain Regional Office. This fall I will be starting graduate school at the University of Colorado-Boulder in their Master of the Environment program with a specialization in Sustainability Planning and Management. Please keep in touch, I'm on LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/cristinairamirez/>) and if you are every in the area, please come visit! I have greatly enjoyed my last two years with the National Park Service and Valley Forge. Not only have I learned a lot working with this program, I have had a lot of fun! This was my first position right after college and with the National Park Service, and I could not have asked for a better experience. I have loved the national parks for a long time, but the NPS Volunteers-in-Parks program now holds a special place in my heart. Between growing up as a Girl Scout and continuing to work with Scouts in college, volunteering was very familiar to me. However, working with you all and helping to run the volunteer program here has given me a new appreciation for volunteers and set a high bar in my mind as to what volunteers can do. Thank you for all you do for the park!